GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:314
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
INFANT MORTALITY RATE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the main causes for increasing infant mortality rate in the country;

(b) whether immunization programme is not implemented compulsorily for all the children in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have initiated any concrete steps afresh for improvement in the problem of malnutrition;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a): The major causes for Infant Mortality are Acute Respiratory Infection, Diarrhea, Measles and Tetanus.As a result of some interventions under the Family Welfare Programme, the Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 104 during 1984to 68 in 2000, a decline of 35%.

(b)&(c): No, Sir. Under Universal Immunization Programme, implemented by the States/UTs with the assistance provided by the Government of India, vaccination is available to all infants in the country against 6 vaccine preventable diseases namely Tetanus, Diptheria, Pertussis, Tuberculosis, Poliomyelitis and Measles.

(d) to (f): Some steps taken to improve nutritional status of children are:- promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, the appropriate complementary feeding practices, the Integrated Child Development Scheme under which nutrition to young children and pregnant and lactating mothers is provided. Provision of Vitamin-A and Iron Folic Acid tablets as prophylactic against micro nutrient deficiency.